

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Important information was also given to industries on the risks and liabilities associated with their practices and the relatively simple measures that can in many cases be taken to prevent major contamination problems.

Finally, implementation of the by-law or health regulation has resulted in the identification of numerous small generators of hazardous waste many of whom had no means available for legal disposal of their waste. The county is attempting to provide them with information on proper disposal and to put groups of small generators in touch with each other so that they could economically dispose of their wastes with commercial haulers.

County Wellfield Protection Ordinance, Dade County, Florida. The 1981 Water Supply Protection Ordinance was adopted under the general home rule authority of Metropolitan Dade County in March 1981. Similar to an overlay zoning district, the ordinance imposes standards for land use within the zones of influence of public supply wells without changing underlying zoning (Section 24-12.1 of the Code of Metropolitan Dade County, Florida). More detailed explanation of the zone of influence ; approaches used in the Dade County ordinance has been presented earlier in this chapter (see page 52).

The evolution of the Dade County Wellfield Protection Ordinance illustrates again how ongoing data collection and a renewed understanding of the problem can be used to improve aquifer protection programs. Its boundaries have been challenged technically and revised several times with both technical and policy issues at stake. However, the fundamental concept of the ordinance has not been challenged, and each revision has led to an increased level of protection.

State-Level Programs

New York. New York State is in the process of implementing a state-level program to protect "primary" aquifers in all portions of the state other than Long Island. Long Island has its own more restrictive protection program. The Upstate New York Ground Water Management Plan defines two categories of water supply aquifers: primary and principal. A primary aquifer is one currently being utilized by major municipal water supply systems. Principal aquifers are highly productive formations that are not intensively used as water supplies at present. They are viewed as potential water supplies but their yield has not been fully established.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has established as a priority the completion of detailed maps of the primary aquifers on a scale that is usable to all interested parties in the public and private sector. The data base includes county and regional studies published